

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/083,657
Amendment dated June 28, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated May 25, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and continued examination of the above-identified application are respectfully requested.

By this amendment, claim 23 has been canceled since it is non-elected subject matter. Claim 25 has been amended to become dependent on claim 15 and the phrase "into said mill" has been deleted in claim 25 to ensure proper antecedent basis with claim 15. Since claim 15 is allowed and claims 25 and 26 properly can depend upon claim 15, entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

In a telephone conversation with Examiner Rosenbaum on June 27, 2006, this amendment was discussed, and the Examiner indicated his willingness to enter this amendment and to rejoin claims 25 and 26. The undersigned and the applicants appreciate the Examiner's cooperation in this matter.

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that the application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 23, 25, and 26, which were non-elected subject matter.

In response, the applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claims 15-20, 22, and 30-37. As discussed with the Examiner by telephone, claim 23 has been canceled and claim 25 has been amended to be dependent on claim 15. Claim 26 is dependent on claim 25. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to rejoin claims 25 and 26 as part of the elected subject matter. The Examiner, in the telephone conversation with the undersigned, indicated his willingness to enter this amendment.

For these reasons, the application is in condition for allowance.

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Should there be any remaining questions, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 03-0060. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and should also be charged to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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